

## **INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF MINORITIES RIGHTS AND ISLAMIC LAW: A COMPARATIVE STUDY**

Nehaluddin Ahmad and Arman bin Haji Asmad

Minority protection operates on the assumption that religious, cultural, and linguistic affiliations are essential features of what it means to be a human. “Minority-ism” and its inseparable accompaniment “minority rights” are the most complex notions around the world, and despite all theoretical assertions, have so far escaped any distinct definition that may be applied universally. The issue of minority rights is at the core of the notion of civic rights, and the objective in this Article is to demonstrate that Islam did institutionalize civic rights for the minorities, and that there is no room in Islam for anyone to question these rights of minorities or to use religion to obstruct any of these rights, inasmuch as civic rights in Islam are applicable to all, without discrimination. The Article explores the comparative position of minorities rights and privileges under international law and Islamic jurisprudence.